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4. (Amended) An improved process claimed in claim 1 wherein the non-aqueous medium used is selected from the group consisting of chlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, alcohols and N, N-dimethylformamide.

5. (Amended) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

6. An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst prepared is metal phthalocyanine sulphonamide selected from the group consisting of cobalt, manganese, nickel, iron, vanadium phthalocyanine sulphonamide and their N- substituted sulphanamide derivatives, most preferably selected from cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-sulphonamide and cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-N(4-hydroxy phenyl) sulphonamide.

Please add the following claims:

7. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the chloride reagent used is selected from the group consisting of thionyl chloride, phosphorous trichloride and phosphorous trichloride and phosphorous pentachloride.

8. (New) An improved process claimed in claim 2 wherein the non-aqueous medium used is selected from the group consisting of chlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, alcohols and N, N-dimethylformamide.

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9. (New) An improved process claimed in claim 3 wherein the non-aqueous medium used is selected from the group consisting of chlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, alcohols and N, N-dimethylformamide.

10. (New) An improved process claimed in claim 7 wherein the non-aqueous medium used is selected from the group consisting of chlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, alcohols and N, N-dimethylformamide.

11. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

12. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 3 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

13. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 4 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

14. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

15. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium

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carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

16. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 9 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

17. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the acid binding agent used is selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and tertiary organic bases selected from pyridine, triethyl amine and piperidine.

18. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the catalyst prepared is metal phthalocyanine sulphonamide selected from the group consisting of cobalt, manganese, nickel, iron, vanadium phthalocyanine sulphonamide and their N- substituted sulphanamide derivatives, most preferably selected from cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-sulphonamide and cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-N(5 4-hydroxy phenyl) sulphonamide.

19. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 3 wherein the catalyst prepared is metal phthalocyanine sulphonamide selected from the group consisting of cobalt, manganese, nickel, iron, vanadium phthalocyanine sulphonamide and their N- substituted sulphanamide derivatives, most preferably selected from cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-sulphonamide and cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-N(5 4-hydroxy phenyl) sulphonamide.

20. (New) An improved process as claimed in claim 4 wherein the catalyst prepared is metal phthalocyanine sulphonamide selected from the group consisting of cobalt, manganese, nickel, iron, vanadium phthalocyanine sulphonamide and their N- substituted sulphanamide derivatives, most preferably selected from cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-sulphonamide and cobalt phthalocyanine tetra-N(5 4-hydroxy phenyl) sulphonamide.